ii. Australian carriers can serve Calcutta, Delhi and Mumbai and combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai on the same flight. The designated airline of India can continue to combine three points of call in Australia on the same flight.

(c) The above revised entitlements have come into force on the date of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding i.e. 16.10.96.

[English]

Outstanding Dues against Railways

209. SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have to pay a huge amount to Maharashtra on account of deployment of Police Force of the State on railway duties since 1979;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such a long delay in making the payment to the State Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite payment of above outstanding dues to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The total outstanding with the railways at present is Rs. 6.61 crores. However, this amount does not include claims of approximately Rs. 22.57 crores rejected by Central Railway on account of creation of posts of GRP personnel without the approval of Railway administration.

(c) The reasons attributed to the delay in payment are as under:

i. Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Government.

ii. Constraints of budget provision for the purpose.

iii. Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Government without approval of Railway administration.

(d) Clearly admissible bills will be passed in 1996-97 subject to the availability of funds.

[Translation]

Paucity of Drinking Water at the Railway Stations situated in Rural Areas

210. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is paucity of drinking water at the railway stations situated in rural areas;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to provide drinking water facility at the said railway stations;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that there is no arrangement of drinking water facility at Kapargaon Railway Station where thousands of Pilgrims come daily to visit Shirdi-Sai Baba temple and whether Government propose to make any arrangements in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) Facility of drinking water in one way or other is provided invariably at all railway stations of Indian Railways, irrespective of the fact whether they fall under rural or urban area.

Kopargaon railway station has railway's own well as well as water suply connection from the local authority. Sufficient water taps, a water cooler, water hut with 6 Gharas and 3 water trollys are provided at the station which are adequate for the level of traffic handled.

[English]

Acquisition of Land

211. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired any land for the International Airport Authority of India along Delhi-Jaipur National Highway No. 8 adjacent to Palam Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the total acreage of land acquired and compensation paid to farmers;

(c) the purpose for which the acquired land has been earmarked; and

(d) the details of the land taken into use as on September 30, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d). More than 3500 acres of land surrounding/abutting Palam airport was acquired by the Civil Aviation Department through the Delhi Administration for the development of Delhi Airport. Precise figures of compensation paid are not available. This land subsequently came under the control of International Airports Authority of India. National Highway No. 8 has also been diverted from its previous location, due to operational reasons and has been constructed on the lands acquired from adjoining Mahipalpur and Rangpuri Villages. Actual utilisation of land by Airports Authority of India as on 30-9-1996 at

Delhi airport is broadly as follows :

		(in acres)
1	Operational	1999.23
2	Commercial	230.84
3	Residential	92.49
4	Land under encroachment	25.00
5	Land yet to be handed over to AAI by land Acquisition Office	86.00
6	Vacant land for future development	2597.00
7	Others	19.44
	Total	5050.00

[Translation]

News Correspondents

212. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of News Correspondents existing under his Ministry at present;

(b) whether new recruitments have been made during the last three years, and

(c) if so, the details thereof, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). There are 57 posts of Correspondents in All India and 15 posts of TV News Correspondent and 33 posts of TV Assistant News Correspondent in Doordarshan. 57 posts of Corespondent in All India Radio belong to different grades of Indian Information Service. There is as such no specific recruitment for the post of Correspondent in All India Radio. These posts form part of cadre strength of Indian Information Service. Candidates are made available by Union Public Service Commission every year for Indian Information Service as per recruitment of the cadre. Officers available in the cadre are posted in the post of Correspondent as also in other posts of this service, as per administrative and functional requirements. There was no recruitment of TV News Correspondents/TV Assistant News Correspondents in Doordarshan during the last three years.

[English]

Telecom in Bihar

213. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Bihar Telecommunications during 1995-96;

(b) the amount out of it utilised/surrendered by the State;

(c) the reasons for surrendering the amount earmarked for improvement of telecom in the State;

(d) whether some other Telecom Circles of the country have also surrendered any amount out of the allocations made by the Union Government during the above period, and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Rs. 228.36 Crores had been allotted to Bihar Telecom Circle during 1995-96.

(b) The Bihar Telecom Circle utilised Rs. 190.43 Crores and surrendered Rs. 37.93 Crores during 1995-96.

(c) The surrender has been warranted on account of nonreceipt of large number of equipments before the end of the financial year 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Following four Telecom Circles have also surrendered some of their budget allocation for 1995-96 :

Name of Circle	Amount (Rs. Crs.)
Madhya Pradesh	55.00
Calcutta Projects	40.00
ALTIC Ghaziabad	1.72
Telecom Factory Jabalpur	0.49

The surrender has been warranted on account of non-receipt of telecom equipments before the end of the financial year 1995-96.

Re-sale of used Railway Tickets

214. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vigilance Department of Railway during the raids had noticed re-sale of used railway tickets by the Station Master of Brahma Vart (Uttar Pradesh), and

(b) if so, the steps taken against the accused and precautionary measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Station Master has been placed under suspension and DAR action has been taken. Preventive surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance Organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis to tackle such irregularities.